Appendix A

In The Claims

Amended Claims:

1.   (Amended)   A system for [using a voice mail message to provide availability] providing presence information of a calling party to a called party, said presence information indicating that said calling party is currently present at a telephone, said system comprising:

a private branch exchange (PBX) serving telephones of the calling and called parties;

a presence server connected to an information device of the calling party and detecting presence of the calling party; [and]

a communications path between said PBX and said presence server, allowing presence information to be sent from said presence server to said PBX; and

a memory associating said presence information with a voice mail message.

3.   (Amended)   [.] The system of claim 2, wherein said presence server further comprises:

a timing module that measures the time elapsed since a last presence indication, is reset by said presence detection module when said presence detection module receives said presence indication from the calling party, and updates said activity database if not reset within a defined period.

6.   (Amended)   A voice messaging system, comprising:

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means for receiving presence information about a calling party from an

information device associated with said calling party, said presence information

indicating that said calling party is currently present at a telephone of the calling party;

means for associating said presence information with a voice message left

by said calling party; and

means for providing said presence information to a called party in

connection with playback of said voice message.

7.   (Amended)   A method of using a voice mail message to provide

availability information of a calling party to a called party, said availability information

indicating whether (i) said calling party is currently present at a telephone and (ii) said

telephone's status is available, said method comprising the following steps performed

after the calling party has left a voice mail message for the called party:

(c)   receiving availability information regarding the calling party from

a presence server; and

(d)   including the availability information in the voice mail message.

10.   (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said step [i.] (i)

comprises sensing use of an information device of the calling party.

14.   (Amended)   A method for conveying presence information via voice

mail, said presence information indicating that said calling party is currently present at a

telephone of the calling party, said method comprising:

(a)   receiving presence information about a calling party from an

information device associated with the calling party; and

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(b)   associating the presence information with a voice mail message

left by the calling party.

22.   (Amended)   A computer program product comprising a computer usable

medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for

causing an application program to execute on a computer that provides availability

information of a calling party to a called party through a voice mail message, said

availability information indicating whether (i) said calling party is currently present at a

telephone and (ii) said telephone's status is available, said computer readable program

code means comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing a private branch

exchange (PBX) to receive availability information from a presence server; and

second computer readable program code means for causing the PBX to

include the received availability information in the voice mail message.

23.   (Amended)   [The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said

computer readable program code means further comprises:] A computer program product

comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer

that provides availability information of a calling party to a called party through a voice

mail message, said computer readable program code means comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing a private branch

exchange (PBX) to receive availability information from a presence server;

second computer readable program code means for causing the PBX to

include the received availability information in the voice mail message; and

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third computer readable program code means for causing the PBX to query the presence server regarding the availability of the calling party.

New Claims:

24.   A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied in said medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer that provides availability information of a calling party to a called party through a voice mail message, said computer readable program code comprising:

first computer readable program code adapted to cause a private branch exchange (PBX) to receive availability information from a presence server;

second computer readable program code adapted to cause the PBX to include the received availability information in the voice mail message; and

third computer readable program code means adapted to cause the PBX to query the presence server regarding the availability of the calling party.

25.   A method for conveying presence information via voice mail, said presence information indicating that said calling party is currently present at a telephone of the calling party, said method comprising:

(a)   in response to the called party requesting playback of the voice message, querying the information device for presence information;

(a)   receiving presence information about a calling party from an information device associated with the calling party; and

(b)   associating the presence information with the calling party.

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